

Is there a future for an offshore radio museum in the Netherlands?

In June 2016 it's 22 years ago that there was a special exhibition opened in the former broadcast museum at the Amersfoortseweg in Hilversum. The subject was 'The Dutch language offshore radio stations in the past 3 decades'. The amount of visitors to the museum during the period of exhibition was so high that it was decided to let it open another few months after the official closing date. A lot of the former listeners to stations like Veronica, RNI, Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Caroline, amongst others, knew to find their way to the museum to bring back a lot of memories and talk with people who have the same interests.

In the years afterwards a lot of these persons got together during the annual Radiodays and several reunions, which took place in several places in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany as well as in England. It's almost 42 years ago that the so called anti offshore radio law came in act and the memories to those offshore radio stations is still so strong that a group of persons came with the idea to start preparation to open an 'Veronica and offshore radio museum'

Since the month of January in cooperation between 192 TV (Bert van Breda), Foundation Norderney (Ad Bouman and Juul Geleick) and Museum Rock Art (Jaap Schut) people are working hard to bring the ideas to reality. The plan is to open the museum in a part of the building used by 192TV in Nijkerk.

Lex Harding is one of the driving forces behind the project. Together with the owner of 192TV, Bert van Breda, he is responsible for the ultimate realization, this together with the people of museum RockArt in Hoek van Holland. Indeed, the latter have much knowledge about the organization of such a museum and about this subject.

The Foundation Norderney will be jointly responsible for providing a lot of information from their extensive archives relating to Radio Veronica and other issues. In addition, former employees of other offshore stations will cooperate. It is believed - and rightly so - that the period of the offshore stations has not ended with the appointment of the law in September 1974, and therefore attention should also be paid to the radio stations which were active from international waters in the second part of the seventies as well as in the eighties.

Also a lot of artists have been approached, who are willing to contribute their bit. Indeed, many owe their popularity to the offshore radio stations. The collaboration should result in a permanent exhibition at the museum. Of course, given the people involved, a lot will be shown about the history of Radio Veronica. Also the idea is that in the future special radio broadcasts will be made from the building of 192TV in Nijkerk.

It is also intended to set up a number of themed venues, such as the history of the Dutch Top 40, about 1967, 'the summer of love,' the big action 'Veronica continues as you want it' and about the history of Nederpop, the Dutch beat scene. Of course there will be a movie-room planned, where various films will be shown including those about the offshore stations.

The aim is to premiere the whole in Nijkerk on 31st of August. A major advantage of the choice of Nijkerk is that it is centrally located in the Netherlands. It seems to me as nostalgia of the top shelf.

© Hans Knot May 2016.